

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2537

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 01 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2647

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,  
to which was referred S.B. No. 2647 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the  
practicum experience requirements for qualification for licensure  
as a mental health counselor.

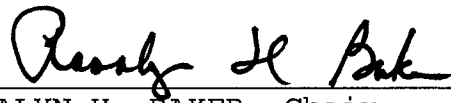
Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the  
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hawaii Counselors  
Association, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the existing educational  
requirements for application for licensure as a mental health  
counselor are overly specific, which has prevented some otherwise  
qualified individuals from gaining licensure. This measure  
generalizes the practicum intern experience to at least six  
semester hours or ten quarter hours within at least two academic  
terms, rather than requiring at least three semester hours or five  
quarter hours per academic term. Your Committee notes that this  
measure does not change the total practicum intern experience  
hours for licensure as a mental health counselor; rather, this  
measure provides greater flexibility for mental health counselor  
applicants to schedule and complete their practicum experience.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2647 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health,



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ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



